

## FACTS ABOUT SECONDHAND SMOKE & CHILDREN

- ◆ Estimated annual U.S. morbidity and mortality in children associated with secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure:

• Low birth weight:	9,700 - 18,600 cases
• SIDS ( <i>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome</i> ):	1,900 - 2,700 cases
• Middle Ear Infections:	700,000 - 1.6 million cases
• New cases of asthma:	8,000 - 26,000 cases
• Asthma exacerbation:	400,000 - 1 million
• Bronchitis or pneumonia:	150,000 - 300,000 cases
	7,500 - 15,000 hospitalizations
	136 - 212 deaths

(*Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke: The Report of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Smoking & Tobacco Control Monograph No. 10, US Department of Health & Human Services, National Institute of Health, Public Health Service, Bethesda, MD. NIH Pub. 98-4302, February, 1998.*)

- ◆ SHS (also known as environmental tobacco smoke or ETS) is associated with cognitive deficits among children even at lower levels of exposure.  
(*Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke and Cognitive Ability Among U.S. Children. Yoltin, K., Dietrich, K.N., Auinger, P., Lanphear, B.P., Hornung, R., Environmental Health Perspectives, US Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Bethesda MD. October, 2004.*)
- ◆ The California Environmental Protection Agency concluded that SHS [ETS] is causally associated not only lung cancer in adults and respiratory problems in children, but also low birth weight, SIDS, middle ear infections, nasal sinus cancer and heart disease morbidity and mortality.  
(*Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke. California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Final Report, September, 1997*)
- ◆ SHS contains chemicals proven to cause cancer in humans, according to the National Toxicology Program. There is no safe level of exposure to these toxins.  
(*Report on Carcinogens, Tenth Edition. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program, Bethesda, MD. December, 2002.*)
- ◆ SHS exposure is causally associated with an increased risk of lower respiratory tract infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia and an increased prevalence of fluid in the middle ear. (*Respiratory Health effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Health and Environmental Protection Assessment, Office of Research and Development, Washington D.C., December, 1992*)
- ◆ SHS exposure is associated with increased respiratory-related school absenteeism among children, especially those with asthma.  
(*Environmental Tobacco Smoke and Absenteeism Related to respiratory Illness in Schoolchildren. Gilliland, F.D., Berhane, K., Peters, J.M., American Journal of Epidemiology 157(1): 861-860, May, 2004.*)
- ◆ There is a statistically significant association between children exposed to SHS at home and risk of dental cavities.  
(*Association of Pediatric Dental Cavities with Passive Smoking. Aligne, C.A., Moss, M.E., Auinger, P., Weitzman, M., Journal of the American Medical Association 289(10): 1258-1264, March, 2003.*)

- ◆ When compared with infants of mothers who smoke in a separate room away from their infants, the risk of infant hospitalization was 55% higher if the mother smoked in the same room with the infant, 73% higher if the mother smoked while holding the infant, and 95% higher if the mother smoked while feeding the infant. (*Parental Smoking and Infant Respiratory Infection: How Important is Not Smoking in the Same Room with the Baby?* Blizzard, L., Ponsonby, A., Dwyer, T., Venn, A., Cochran, J.A., *American Journal of Public Health* 93(3): 482-488, March 2003.)
- ◆ Children of parents who smoke compared with the children of non-smoking parents have an increased frequency of respiratory infections, increased respiratory symptoms, and slightly smaller rates of increase in lung function as the lung matures (*The Health Consequences Involuntary Smoking. A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Social and Health Services, Centers for Disease Control, Center for Health Promotion and Education, Office on Smoking & Health. Rockville, MD. 1986.)
- ◆ Smoking by both the mother and the father appears to cause permanent damage to the developing airways of a child, leading to more respiratory symptoms and impaired lung function in adult life. (*Parental Smoking in Childhood and Adult Obstructive Lung Disease: Results from the European Community Respiratory Health Survey*, Thorax 59 (4): 295-302, April, 2004.)
- ◆ Even minimal exposure to SHS reduces the concentration of vitamin C in children. (*Influence of Environmental Tobacco Smoke on Vitamin C Status in Children*. Preston, A., Rodriguez, C., Rivera, C., Sahai, H., *Journal of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition* 77: 167-172, January, 2003.)

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